

VA LONG BEACH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The VA Long Beach Healthcare System includes a 421-bed tertiary care teaching center affiliated with the University of California, College of Medicine at Irvine and several Veterans Health Clinics. Over 250,000 veterans in the Greater Los Angeles area and Orange County are provided comprehensive healthcare. While a full range of medical services are available, the VA Long Beach Healthcare System is nationally recognized for its comprehensive Cancer and Spinal Cord Injury Centers.

The population treated within the VA hospital setting has significant dental needs. Concomitantly, patients typically have an array of debilitating physical, psychological, and medical conditions that complicate their dental treatment. The staff and residents are highly trained in the management of these complex and difficult patients. The spectrum of dental care ranges from unscheduled emergency procedures to comprehensive evaluation and treatment of eligible inpatients and outpatients, which encompasses virtually all specialty areas in dentistry. Special emphasis is placed on providing treatment to patients with dental conditions associated with or exacerbating significant medical problems, such as head and neck cancer, spinal cord injury, diabetes, cardiac valve dysfunction, joint replacement, and organ transplantation.

The Dental Service receives support from other services within the Medical Center, such as Radiology and Laboratory. Additionally, it provides broad consultative services to ENT, Radiation Therapy, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Medicine, Spinal Cord Injury, Nursing Home Care Unit, and Pulmonary Sleep Clinic. Emergency services are provided for head and neck trauma, cranial fractures, and oral infections. Associated functions and activities of the Dental Service include resident training and patient education.

The Dental Service is staffed by 11 full-time and part-time dentists (full-time specialists in endodontics, maxillofacial prosthodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery), 9 residents (5 AEGD and 4 endodontic), 2 hygienists, 19 assistants, and 1 laboratory technician.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Advanced Education in General Dentistry program is a one-year program designed to provide clinical and didactic training in hospital dentistry at the post-doctoral level. Five resident positions are available. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. A certificate is awarded to the resident upon successful completion of the program.

This residency will prepare the resident to deliver total oral health care by providing instruction and experience involving ambulatory and hospitalized patients with a wide

spectrum of medical conditions. In addition, it will enable the resident to develop a level of understanding of oral health as an integral and interactive part of total health. It will also offer the opportunity to work with other health care professionals in the hospital and broaden clinical exposure to conditions not commonly seen in the clinic of a dental school.

The program is very clinically oriented and residents obtain significant experience in endodontics, surgical periodontics, surgical placement and restoration of implants, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and complex prosthodontic treatment – both fixed and removable.

The hospital is located near the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach. Belmont Shore is an oceanside promenade with numerous shops, restaurants, and cafes. Housing is abundant, with many apartments within walking distance of the medical center. Long Beach is in the Greater Los Angeles area, which provides access to unparalleled activities – sports, entertainment, and nightlife.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Act as a primary care provider for individuals and groups of patients. This includes: providing emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care; providing patient focused care that is coordinated by the general practitioner; directing health promotion and disease prevention activities; and using advanced dental treatment modalities.
2. Plan and provide multidisciplinary oral health care for a wide variety of patients including patients with special needs.
3. Manage the delivery of oral health care by applying concepts of patient and practice management and quality improvement that are responsive to a dynamic health care environment.
4. Function effectively within the hospital and other health care environments.
5. Function effectively within interdisciplinary health care teams.
6. Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care. This includes using critical thinking, evidence or outcomes-based clinical decision-making, and technology-based information retrieval systems.
7. Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice.

8. Understand the oral health needs, medical conditions, and issues of veterans and engage in community service.

OUTLINE OF TEACHING PROGRAM

A. Orientation

At the beginning of the residency year, an orientation period will expose the resident to the administration and functions of the Medical Center and Dental Service. The following subjects are included in this period of instruction:

1. Tour of the medical center to visit other services and departments for general familiarization.
2. Overview of hospital organization, functioning, application for privileges, and the credentialing process.
3. Standard procedures in the medical center related to resident responsibilities, patient care, and the use of computerized medical records and digital radiography.
4. General policies and procedures of the Dental Service, such as patient eligibility and on-call responsibilities.
5. Dental Examination Room procedures, records and policies.
6. Hospital Dentistry Course for medical risk assessment and dental management of the medically compromised patient.

B. Dental Rotations

Clinical experience is provided primarily during two to six month rotations in which the patient case mix is designed to maximize exposure to a specific discipline, thereby concentrating and enhancing learning during this focused period of time. The use of rotations, however, does not preclude comprehensive multidisciplinary oral health care, as residents are expected to comprehensively address total oral health care needs.

1. Restorative Dentistry

In this rotation, the resident will focus on operative dentistry and fixed and removable prosthodontics. Experience will be gained in the use of various types of restorative techniques and dental materials, as well as the indications for their use in clinical practice. Restoration of osseointegrated implants will also be accomplished. Formulation of treatment plans and presentation of cases before staff will be required. This rotation will also include experience in the fabrication

of special prostheses used in oral and maxillofacial surgery such as stents for pre-prosthetic, orthognathic, and implant surgery.

2. Endodontics

This clinical rotation will include the diagnosis and treatment of endodontic problems and emergencies. While attending seminars and meetings with the endodontic residents, the resident will be exposed to the complete spectrum of non-surgical, surgical, and microsurgical procedures, including a variety of canal preparation and obturation techniques and the use of rotary instruments.

3. Periodontics

The clinical content will include the diagnosis and prognosis of periodontal disease, treatment planning, instrumentation, and periodontal surgical procedures and techniques, including flap design, osseous surgery, and soft and hard tissue grafting.

4. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Experience will include performing surgical procedures in the dental clinic, as well as the general surgery operating suite. Practical experience in IV sedation and major and minor oral surgery procedures, including exodontia, reduction of maxillary and mandibular fractures, placement of osseointegrated implants, and the treatment of pathology of the oral cavity will be provided.

C. Medical Rotations

1. Internal Medicine

Assignment to this rotation should develop the resident's capacity for recognition of symptoms of systemic diseases. During this one-week course of training, emphasis will be placed on cardiovascular diseases. Observing and assisting a staff physician in the work-up of patients will help correlate physical diagnosis, laboratory findings, and imaging and other studies with history and symptoms.

2. Anesthesia

The resident will be assigned to the Anesthesiology Service for instruction in the administration of general anesthesia for major surgery. Experience will be obtained in various types of general anesthetics with emphasis placed on pre- and post-operative care of patients receiving general anesthesia.

3. Same-Day Surgery

This area of training will teach the resident to obtain, record, and interpret comprehensive medical histories and to observe and perform complete physical examinations on patients anticipating outpatient surgical procedures. The resident will also assist in the preoperative insertion of intravenous lines.

TEACHING CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

A. General Dentistry Literature Review

A general dentistry literature review will be held twice a month. Each resident will participate by reading and alternately presenting current and historical dental literature. This literature will cover a variety of medical and dental topics with the exception of endodontics and oral pathology, which will be covered by appropriate staff and guest lecturers.

B. Multidisciplinary Treatment Planning

Each resident will work-up and present cases to the program director and other attending staff on a monthly basis. This includes treatment plans for medically compromised patients with difficult or unusual medical and/or dental problems.

C. Clinical Dental Education Webinar Series

The dental resident is encouraged to attend webinars sponsored by The Office of Dentistry's Dental Education Program and the Veterans Health Administration Employee Education System whenever relevant topics are presented.

PERIODS OF INSTRUCTION

The year consists of fifty-two teaching weeks with a tentative distribution of time in each rotation as follows:

A. Hospital Dentistry Course - 1 week

B. Dental Rotations

1. Restorative – 26 weeks
2. Endodontics and Periodontics - 11 weeks
3. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery – 11 weeks

C. Medical Rotations

1. Internal Medicine - 1 week
2. Anesthesia - 1 week

3. Same-Day Surgery – 1 week

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. Salary

Approximately \$52,941 per year (2016)

B. Vacation and Sick Leave

Residents are VA employees and accrue 26 days of annual leave over the course of the program. In addition, residents receive ten federal holidays.

C. Professional Liability Coverage

Residents receive professional liability coverage through the Department of Veterans Affairs for residency-related clinical activities for the duration of the program. Outside activities are not covered by this policy.

D. Due Process Policy

Residents have access to due process through the University of California Irvine Graduate Medical Education Academic Due Process and Leave Guidelines.

E. Outside Professional Activities

Limited outside professional activities, including continuing education programs, may be allowed at the discretion of the program director and Chief, Dental Service.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A.** Graduation from a United States or Canadian dental school, which has been approved by the American Dental Association Council on Dental Education
- B.** Participation in Postdoctoral Application Support Service (PASS)
- C.** Participation in Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program
- D.** Personal interview upon invitation
- E.** United States citizens are given first consideration.

- F.** The program complies with the Equal Employment Opportunity policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs which provides equal opportunity to all regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, or sexual orientation.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR PROGRAM

The following materials must arrive by the October 17 deadline.

1. PASS materials
2. Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA Form 10-2850D) should be completed, signed, and mailed to:

***Dr. Helene Shen
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program
VA Long Beach Healthcare System Dental Service (12/160)
5901 East 7th Street
Long Beach, CA 90822***

3. 2"x 2" photograph

Application materials will **not** be returned to the applicant.